

Piper Twin Commanche, Poppa Golf that he flew with his son and frequent co-pilot, Chip; to others, he will be remembered for his contributions to the health care industry; and to his family, he will be remembered as a man devoted to his faith and a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Northwest Florida mourns the loss of a great man, and Mr. Groner's contributions and service to the community and this great nation will not be forgotten. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the exemplary life of Mr. Pat Neff Groner. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers to Louise, Jodee, Chip, and their entire family. He will be truly missed by all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, due to my attending a congressional vigil for the victims of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary, I missed one recorded vote on Monday, December 17. I would like the RECORD to indicate at this point how I would have voted had I been present for this vote.

On rollcall No. 627, H.R. 4606, I would have voted "yea" to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines within the boundary of Glacier National Park in Montana.

HONORING ROBIN J. COPELAND

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robin J. Copeland, who passed away on October 30, 2011 at the young age of 46.

Robin had roots in West Texas and had a distinguished career in international diplomacy, non-proliferation, and scientific engagement. Her work with the United States Department of Energy, Department of State, the Civilian Research Development Foundation, and liaisons with U.S. Embassies worldwide was carried out under difficult and demanding conditions. Her responsibilities required skills in political science, technical science, and engineering and she was fluent in seven languages.

She was an expert in non-proliferation and contributed in significant ways to the reduction of nuclear weapons in Russia and Libya. In addition to her work on non-proliferation, she also implemented a program that trained Russian doctors with U.S. doctors in Africa to treat and care for those with HIV/AIDS.

Texas Tech University has established the Robin J. Copeland Scholarship to be awarded to undergraduates, graduate, or law students who enroll in the following academic programs of study: 1. Political Science or international law in a supporting area of science or engineering; 2. Science and engineering with auxiliary emphasis in political science or international law or; 3. Programs that demonstrate compelling evidence for application to science and international diplomacy.

Robin was a talented and unique young lady who served her nation well. She was a success in life, because she made a gift of her life.

IN HONOR OF DR. HECTOR HENRY

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true, dedicated leader in my state and in my community, Dr. Hector Henry of Concord, NC. Dr. Henry has served our nation as a Colonel in the United States military, and has served as a member of the Concord City Council for more than 20 years.

Dr. Henry proudly served our nation for decades, and came out of retirement following the attacks of September 11, 2001. He was deployed for combat in both Afghanistan and Iraq, most recently completing a 2009 deployment to Afghanistan. While deployed, Dr. Henry made every effort to videoconference in to City Council meetings, so he would not miss a minute of discussion in his hometown. Dr. Henry has served in the United States military in every conflict since the Vietnam War, a truly remarkable feat.

Still a councilman, Dr. Henry continues his service to the people of the W.G. (Bill) Hefner V.A. Medical Clinic in Salisbury, North Carolina, named in honor of our former colleague of this very chamber, Rep. Bill Hefner. Dr. Henry works as a surgeon, treating many of the veterans that call our district home, and continuing his lifelong service of helping his fellow soldier, and his community.

I'm proud to call Hector a friend and a role model. I sincerely thank Dr. Henry for his tireless devotion to making the city of Concord, and our nation, a better place.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and respect that I rise today to speak of the lifetime of public service that Dr. Hector Henry has led in our great state. I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Henry for his service, sacrifice, and ongoing commitment to this great nation.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MARY M. JOHNSON UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM SERVICE AS SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary M. Johnson on the occasion of her retirement from service as Santa Rosa County, Florida Clerk of Circuit Court.

Mrs. Johnson is a native Northwest Floridian who studied at Harold School and Milton High School in Santa Rosa County, Florida. In 1960, while still a student at Milton High, Mrs. Johnson was hired to work in the Clerk of Court office. After graduating from high school in 1961, Mrs. Johnson joined the clerk's office full time. While working there, Mrs. Johnson

married her husband, Tom, and together they raised their daughter, Lorinda.

Thanks to Mrs. Johnson's acumen and work ethic, she rose through the ranks and quickly became an integral part of the Santa Rosa County Clerk of Court office. Mrs. Johnson served in various capacities for three separate clerks of court, before being elected as Clerk herself in 1994.

Technology had changed many thing at the clerk's office by the time Mrs. Johnson decided to run; however, Mrs. Johnson's vast knowledge of procedure and her ability to lead and manage a large staff of 125 individuals was unquestioned. The Clerk of Courts plays a vital role in county government, and it takes a truly committed and capable individual to lead the department and ensure that everything runs smoothly. For 18 years as Clerk of Circuit Court, and 52 total years in the clerk's office, Mrs. Johnson displayed the hard work, dedication and commitment to public service necessary to ensure that the Clerk of Court continued to serve the people of Santa Rosa County. All of Santa Rosa County thanks her for her tremendous service to her community. During her retirement, Mrs. Johnson hopes to spend as much time as possible with her two lovely grandchildren and to spend more time volunteering at her local church.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mary M. Johnson for her outstanding public service to Santa Rosa County. Mrs. Johnson is a truly committed public servant and has played an integral role in Northwest Florida's community for more than 50 years. My wife Vicki and I wish her all the best in her retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACK BRESCH

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK-

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am writing to honor the life of John "Jack" Edward Bresch, a long time health advocate who worked with us in Congress to improve our health care system—especially focusing on access to care for lower income children and families. Jack passed away on September 1, 2012 surrounded by family, under the care of hospice, after a brief and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

I first got to know Jack through his work as a lead lobbyist for the Catholic Health Association. He served as a key component of CHA's government affairs team from 1983 to 2000. A highlight of his time at CHA was to work closely with then First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and her White House team to develop and promote a plan for reforming the nation's health care system. He then went on to work for the American Dental Education Association until the time of his death.

In both of these positions, Jack was a tireless advocate for improving our health care system so that everyone has access to affordable, quality health care. With the dental schools, he was especially focused on improving access to dental care for low-income children. This is a serious problem in our country that was spotlighted by the wrongful death of twelve-year old Demonte Driver of Maryland.